

March 19, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians of High School Students,

It is time to enroll in summer school! DCPS's summer school for high school students is aimed at helping students get back on track in terms of earned credits and achievement. Students who continue learning during the summer are better prepared for the next school year and less likely to lose knowledge gained during the previous school year. Over time, this can give them an edge in meeting graduation goals and competing in the college admissions process.

We are excited to invite students to participate in summer school offerings to help them reach these goals. Knowing the importance of a quality teacher, we are recruiting a talented, dedicated, and enthusiastic pool of teachers for summer school. Students will also receive breakfast and lunch free of charge.

Key Dates

- The deadline for registration is **April 30, 2010**.
- Both high school Carnegie Unit courses and the Career Pathways work-study program will run from **June 28 through August 6, 2010**.
- High School Graduation is tentatively scheduled for **August 6, 2010**.

Eligibility

Summer school is open to all District of Columbia high school students who need three (3) or fewer Carnegie Units to graduate or to be promoted to the next grade level. This summer, we will be offering students the opportunity to take up to three (3) Carnegie Unit courses.

Career Pathways

Students who are eligible to participate in summer school may also participate in the *Career Pathways* work-study program, which is co-sponsored by the Department of Employment Services (DOES) and is part of the mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program.

- The Career Pathways Program allows students to take **up to two** Carnegie Unit courses to earn academic credit while also taking **at least one** Career Pathways course for exposure to a variety of career options and job readiness skills.
- Career Pathways courses do not provide academic credit. Students will be compensated for their participation hours in Career Pathway classes only. Students will not be compensated for their time in Carnegie Unit courses (for which they will receive academic credit). We hope that this program will prevent students from having to make the difficult choice between attending summer school or taking a summer job.
- The Career Enhancement classes at Ballou, Cardozo, McKinley and Roosevelt high schools, which are offered as extension of school year, will be considered equivalent to Career Pathways courses in terms of compensation and credit.

How to Enroll

- Current DCPS high school students will be pre-registered for courses based on need. However, we need you to complete the attached enrollment application in order to secure the spot. Please complete this application and submit it to the guidance counselor or afterschool coordinator at your student's school.
- The deadline for registration is **Friday, April 30, 2010**. We will not be able to guarantee a spot for your student after this date.
- All programs will be free to students who reside in Washington, DC (including non-DCPS students). Non-DCPS parents should contact Dr. Wilma Durham (Wilma.durham@dc.gov or 202-442-5047) for an appointment to register non-DCPS students. Non-DCPS parents must prove residency and bring proof of credit recovery courses needed in order to register by April 30th.

We Need You!

- **Motivate your student to enroll.** What are your child's goals for the future? Discuss the ways that summer school will help him or her meet these goals.
- **Offer incentives.** Try providing incentives for hitting attendance and achievement goals. This does not have to mean spending money. It could be a day with you or with friends—whatever you know is the most powerful motivator!
- **Ensure attendance and punctuality.** You know your child best. Some high school students still need you as the alarm clock, while others will do fine without it. Thank you for doing everything you can to keep your child's goals alive in discussions, and to draw the connections between attendance, punctuality, hard work and achievement.

Please do not hesitate to contact your afterschool coordinator or guidance counselor if you have any questions. You can also find information on our website at dcps.dc.gov. We look forward to working with you to help your high school student succeed and take the next steps toward a successful future.

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Wilma Durham (Wilma.durham@dc.gov, 202-442-5047), Alex Donahue (Alex.donahue@dc.gov, 202-727-8648) or the Critical Response Team at 202-478-5738.

Sincerely,



Michelle Rhee
Chancellor